Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

4273. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for allowing import of Biochemics, Dilutions, Mother tinctures and specialities of Homoeopathic medicines which are manufactured indigenously and are also being exported;

(b) the details of homoeopathic medicines which are allowed for import but are not sold in the country of origin; and

(c) whether the Government contemplate any change in the policy in view of grave economic crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The import of these Homoeopathic medicines is being allowed by all persons for actual use/stock and sale, with a view to ensure easy availability of such medicines of desired standard and quality. Such imports supplement the indigenously manufactured Homoeopathic medicines.

(b) Cineraria Maritima Succus manufactured by Dr. Willimar Schwabe Gmbh & Co., West Germany, is being imported into the country.

(c) Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Withdrawal of Interest Rates on Debentures

4275. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the withdrawal of interest rates on debentures would hit the banks;

(b) whether the blue chip companies would now prefer capital market to the banks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take some steps to attract the blue chip companies to deposit the surplus funds in banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Premium for Insurance Cover-up in Flood-prone Areas

4276. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the property owners in flood-prone areas are required to pay a higher premium for insurance cover-up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the increase in premium in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Opium and Morphia

4277. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been large scale increase in the smuggling of opium and morphia particularly from